

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 22-36, and 39-41 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 20 and 36 are currently amended. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 11, lines 10-19, and in Figs. 1 and 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 20, 22, 23, 26-33, 35, 36, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sufke (U.S. Patent No. 4,793,112) in view of Prase (U.S. Patent No. 2,649,135); Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sufke in view of Prase and Florentin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,965, hereinafter “Florentin”); Claims 24, 25, 34, and 41 were objected to, but were indicated as including allowable subject matter; and Claim 40 was allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable and allowed subject matter in Claims 24, 25, 34, 40, and 41.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections and traverses these rejections, as discussed below.

Amended Claims 20 and 36 recite, in part, “active position fastening of the second substrate *relative* to the first substrate, at least in the event of failure of the bonded joint.” It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claims 20 and 36.

Specifically, the Office Action on page 8 acknowledges that the position fastening dowel 14 and key strip 21 of Prase “allow for lateral movement between the panels,” but “prevent movement longitudinally between the adjacent panels. As such, they act as ‘active position fastening’ elements.” Accordingly, Claims 20 and 36 are amended to clarify that the

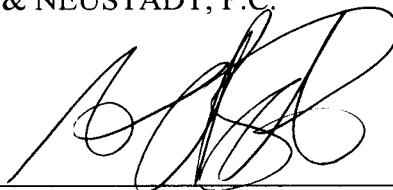
active position fastening is of the second substrate *relative* to the first substrate. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Prase, the upper frame 15 is compressed towards the lower frame 2. Thus, the dowel 14 and a key strip 21 are not responsible for active position fastening of the upper frame 15 to the lower frame 2 because the dowel 14 and key strip 21 allow the position of the upper frame 15 to move. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 20 and 36, and all claims which depend thereon, be withdrawn.

Claim 39 depends on Claim 20, and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 20. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Florentin does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Sufke and Prase. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 39 be allowed.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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